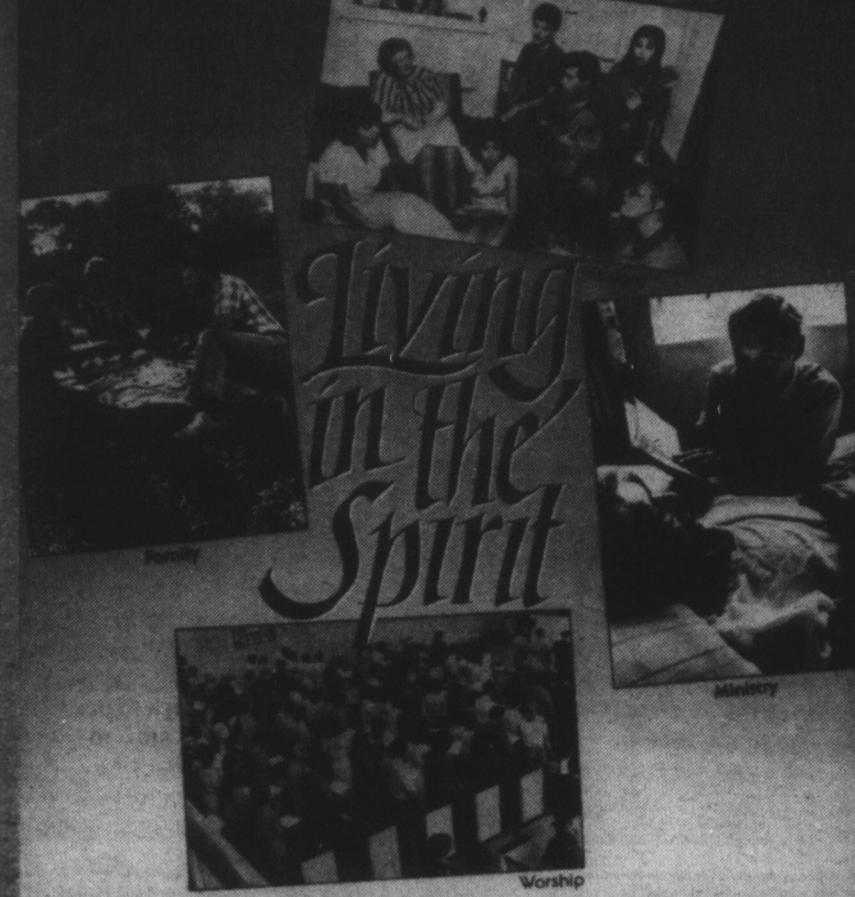


"M" NIGHT, 1987



## "M" Night, 1987

One of the largest gatherings of Baptists across Mississippi each year is the annual "M" Night. Almost all associations conduct this rally to call attention to discipleship training and the special emphases for the new year. Singing, choirs, Bible Drill demonstrations, youth speaker demonstrations, roll call of churches, awarding of attendance banners, and a special sermon on discipleship training are characteristic of this rally according to Mose Dangerfield, director, state Church Training Department.

The theme for "M" Night is "Living In the Spirit," which is also the theme for Church Training literature for this year. "M" stands for mobilization, a military term meaning getting ready for active service.

The convention-wide date for "M" Night this year is November 23; however, associations vary this date to fit their schedules.

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 12, 1987

Published Since 1877

## Black Baptists make history in missions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Carolyn Shack, a relatively new Southern Baptist who grew up in a Tallahassee, Fla., ghetto, is making history.

Shack is one person working to stir the black church into doing something with foreign missions. Her interest, she says, veers away from blacks' traditional role in missions — spreading the gospel in their own communities.

She is not alone. There are others — people like Houston dentist Gayle McGaughey and Californian E.W. McCall.

Although deeply involved in community missions, black churches in the United States have produced startlingly few foreign missionaries. Only five foreign missionaries from 1,100 predominantly black churches are now under appointment by Southern Baptists. The 1-to-50,000 ratio within the black church is nearly 15 times lower than the missionary-to-member percentage among Southern Baptists overall.

Shack, wife of an insurance broker and mother of a college sophomore and a high school senior, began six months ago asking about Southern Baptist foreign missions. Because of her inquiries, three Baptist associations near her Gilroy, Calif., home are

starting to catch a new enthusiasm.

Shack realized her church needed to understand foreign missions. After she wrote a letter in May and then talked in person with a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative about a program for two-week volunteers, Shack focused her energy on getting fellow church members motivated to do something with their foreign missions program.

When Victor Davis, black church relations manager at the Foreign Mission Board, called and asked her if she were interested in going, her initial response was, "No, I just want information for my church," she reported.

"But then I started feeling a great urgency come upon me; why was I wasting a lot of time trying to get other people interested, and why wasn't I going?"

After returning from an eye-opening volunteer experience in Jamaica, Shack worked with other members of Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif., to form a mission team. The team invited leaders of churches in the area to a mission awareness day featuring Davis, a film, a sit-down dinner and a Southern Baptist missionary to France. They planned seating for 115

people. So many came they ran short on seats.

Shack and Frankie Harvey, leader of Emmanuel's mission team, attended a conference at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., with about 75 other leaders of black Southern Baptist churches Oct. 20-22. Davis convened the conference to educate participants about Global Vision '88, a thrust through which the board hopes to send volunteers overseas from 100 black churches next year.

One week during the summer of 1986 McGaughey worked sunup to sundown in Jamaica for no pay with eight other healthcare professionals.

People in the Central American nation of Belize asked McCall, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif., "Aren't there some saved blacks in America?" They were puzzled because they had seen very few missionaries of their own skin color in their country.

Blacks in the United States have wrestled for prestige and have won good jobs and material prosperity, McCall said: "We ask, 'Why should I go? Look at my wall, it's cluttered with degrees.'"

## Dana in death touches ten lives

Dear Mr. McGregor:

Our daughter Dana went to Panama City, Fla., on the 24th of May of this year. She had just finished her freshman year at Northwest Mississippi Junior College, now called NEMCC. She had wanted to go after her graduation from high school in '86 but didn't get to, so she had planned this trip for a year and was so excited about it. She went with five of her best friends.

She called me on Monday, the 25th, when they arrived in P.C. and was to call me again on Wednesday the 27th. That was the last time I talked to my precious daughter. She was struck by a car at 11:43 p.m. on Tues. the 26th.

She was declared brain dead on May 31. She had told her best friend just two months before that if she should die she wanted her organs to be donated. I knew this in my heart even before her friend told us what Dana had said. So we gave our permission for organ donation. We did it because we knew Dana wanted to give of

herself even in death.

A young woman in Pennsylvania received both Dana's lungs after her heart had been transplanted into a 53-year-old man. This was the second time this had been done in the U.S. at this time. Her two kidneys, liver and pancreas were also donated to four people. So you see our sweet Dana touched six lives in her death.

Also four people have come to know the Lord Jesus since Dana's death. One was a young girl who was a friend of Dana's, her testimony was that if it had been her instead of Dana that was struck by the car she would have died and gone to hell. Now she has been redeemed and forgiven and will have the hope that we all have through Jesus Christ.

One man was under the conviction of the Holy Spirit at Dana's graveside service the day of her funeral (June 3) and was saved the next week.

It has been very hard for my husband and me and our two

younger children to accept losing our Dana. But we have the assurance and hope to know we will be reunited with her again someday.

She gave so much of herself to other people in her 18½ years; she loved and cared for her friends she knew were not saved. I am thankful that God's name has been glorified. Many times it's very hard to see the good things that have happened since Dana's death, but even in the depth's of our pain and sorrow we can praise his name because if she had to leave us this soon we know she is experiencing happiness and love that cannot be found here on earth.

Jerry (my husband) and I are members of Rienzi Baptist in Alcorn County in the far corner of northeast Mississippi. Our pastor, Bro. Charlie Cooper, had just been called as our pastor in March. He came to Panama City with a dear family friend of ours and stayed the whole time by our side. We had

us and several of Dana's friends flew to P.C. to be with us during this trying week.

On Sat. night, May 30, we knew what we were facing on Sunday morning. We would be told the results of a second EEG and we knew there would be no good news. So about 11 p.m. a group of 16 people gathered in front of Bay County Medical Center and joined hands in prayer. Mr. McGregor, I have never felt the spirit of God as strong as I felt it that night. He was there in the midst of us giving each of us the strength we needed to face the final decision. Our pastor will tell you he has never felt the spirit that strong in any of his revivals.

We had been having prayer each night as we all separated for the night, but Saturday night's prayer meeting was unbelievable. It was an experience none of those 16 people will ever forget.

Dana would have been 19 on September 13. I write this Sept. 17 through tears of remembering 18½

years of pure happiness and joy she gave to us and so many people.

Cathy Moore  
Rt. 2, Box 25  
Rienzi, MS 38865



Dana Michelle Moore

# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Pornography is beatable

A high-powered attack on pornography was a part of the Mississippi Baptist scene last week as experts on fighting that scourge came to Jackson from all over the United States.

A conference titled Confronting Pornography was sponsored by both the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Both Paul Jones of the Mississippi agency and Larry Baker of the Southern Baptist entity were on hand on Tuesday evening to introduce portions of the program.

The crowd gathered in the chapel of First Church was welcomed by Ed Pittman, Mississippi attorney general and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

The experts in the fight who spoke that evening were from Phoenix, Ariz.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Washington, D.C.

The first was Alan Sears, who is the legal counsel for Citizens for Decency through Law. Sears was the executive director of the United States Attorney General's commission on pornography, which made its report a little more than a year ago. Sears devoted a great part of his presentation to detailing how the commission went about its search for the ways pornography impacts United States society.

Victor Cline is a clinical

psychologist on the staff of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He told of dealing with the effects of pornography on human behavior as he counsels with those who have been affected by pornography.

A third speaker was Presbyterian minister Jerry Kirk, who has been in Mississippi as a part of this fight before. Kirk, of Cincinnati, took leave of absence from his congregation to inaugurate a movement against pornography. His organization is called Alliance Against Pornography, and his is almost an evangelistic approach. He spoke of enlisting the aid of church members in the fight.

The final speaker works with the U.S. Department of Justice and is head of a National Obscenity Task Force. He spoke of the value of laws established to regulate pornography.

This speaker, Robert Showers of Washington, pointed out that citizens are the primary moving force in this country. His message was that citizens can accomplish anything that they set their collective minds to do. Much has been said, he declared, about the impossibility of legislating morality. But every law legislates morality, he noted. The question to be asked, he said, is whose morality is being legislated.

A law is no good unless the citizens support it, Showers said. He related that North Carolina was once one of the worst states in the nation in the

availability of pornography. The citizens stood up, he said, and now North Carolina is one of the cleanest.

There was a great deal to be gained from the knowledge and experience of these men. They have chosen a tough profession because pornography is a devastating thing, they said in chorus; and it must take its toll on those who fight it as well as on those who are victims of it. But they know its effects, and they know how to fight it. Almost in unison they said that those who would fight pornography must be organized, they must have a goal, and they must pursue their goal relentlessly. They said that the goal must be narrow, that it must zero in on one aspect of pornography, or two at the most; and they suggest going after the most blatant forms of pornography, because they are the areas in which victories can be won with most assurance.

Thus they say to concentrate on hard-core pornography and child pornography.

The message of Showers was particularly telling. It was that the citizens who have a cause and who will pursue it can win the battles.

Mississippi's pornography laws are defensible, he said. What is needed is for Mississippi's citizens to begin insisting that they be enforced.

The problem with pornography, the speakers noted, is that the people who would fight it and who want to fight



it are not aware of its existence. It is to be found in Mississippi, however, they assured the listeners; and it is taking its toll. As for availability, one speaker told of sending his minor-aged daughter into a porn shop in Jackson to buy a hard-core video tape, and she was successful.

A new Legislature will begin its first term in January. Following the election of last week, we know who its members are. There can be no pre-filed bills this year because of the fact that it is a new Legislature, but it is not too early to begin dealing with

legislators in order to get our points across. Pornography can be whipped, but it will take an intense effort. Without exception, it was noted, the big profits of pornography go into the pockets of organized crime. Those who are involved in its dissemination are not going to give it up easily. And they are powerful.

But it can be whipped. The citizens of this state are the state's greatest moving force. Nothing can stop us if we can get together, if we can decide what we want to do, and if we will keep at it until it's done.

## Guest opinion . . .

## The deacon's ministry

By J. Everett Sneed

Most Baptists would agree that a deacon is one of the most important people in a church. Across the years, however, many ideas have developed as to his role. Some have viewed him as the church business manager, while others have seen him as someone who keeps the pastor straight. A few have felt that the system is a way of honoring outstanding men.

The word "deacon" in the New Testament is derived from the Greek word *diakonos*, meaning "servant." In the time of Paul, life was cheap. Man's power or station in society was often measured by the number of servants he owned. The word "servant" might be spoken like "leper." But the word was given a new and lofty meaning by the inspired men of the early church, as the deacon came to be known as a servant of God.

Most scholars agree that the seven men appointed in Acts, the sixth chapter, were deacons although the name is not specifically assigned to them anywhere in that scripture.

These men were chosen out of a definite need. The Greek widows were complaining that the Hebrew widows were receiving a larger portion of the church's resources (Acts 6:1). The disciples said it was not desirable that they should leave off the proclamation of God's Word to distribute resources to the needy members of the church. Great wisdom was exercised by the disciples in that they chose Greeks for the office. The men functioned well. They solved the problem of fellowship as well as relieving the load of the apostles.

By the time of the writing of Philippians, the office seems to have been well established, for Paul addresses "all the saints in Jesus Christ which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). As a heretical ecclesiastical structure developed, by the end of the second century, the deacon's position was changed. From the position of a layperson, he was moved to the lowest position of the professional clergy.

The New Testament gives us insight into the office as it outlines the requirements for these dedicated men. A deacon is to be one who is grave (serious), that is, one who has Christian purpose (I Tim. 3:8). This does not imply that he should not enjoy a good joke. Every pastor agrees that a good sense of humor helps. He is to be doctrinally sound (I Tim. 3:9), mature in Christian service (I Tim. 3:10), a man with a Christian family (I Tim. 3:12), a man of controlled speech (I Tim. 3:8), a man who is temperate (I Tim. 3:8), and a good steward of his possessions (I Tim. 3:8). The requirements for a deacon are the same as those for a preacher, with the exception of being "apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2).

The concept of a "Board of Deacons" who serve as the church's business managers, had its beginning in the late 1800's during the rise of the democratic revolution, individual rights were being considered more

seriously on almost every level. The term "board" was adopted from policy-making meetings around board or wooden tables. The business concept was transferred into our Baptist congregations.

The idea of deacons serving as a church business manager was further enhanced by the fact that many churches only had the services of a pastor on a part-time basis. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, many congregations would have the services of a pastor only one or two Sundays a month. Someone had to care for the business of the congregation while the pastor was away. It seemed appropriate for the deacon to step in and provide this assistance for the congregation.

It is easy to tell whether a church uses deacons as a "board." This method is being followed if: (1) items of business must be screened by the deacons; (2) the pastor and the staff are responsible to the deacons; or (3) use of finances or facilities must first

be approved by the deacons. There are no levels of authority in a Baptist church. If the New Testament teaches, as we believe, that every member is equal, the deacon board may be considered a violation of the rights of the congregation.

We believe the New Testament indicates that a deacon should be a part of the pastoral ministry or spiritual team. They should work under the leadership of the pastor to assist the congregation in accomplishing its spiritual objectives. As a part of this endeavor, deacons would have several responsibilities.

First, deacons should assist in promoting the spiritual fellowship of the church. There is no group which can do more to strengthen the harmony of a congregation. Usually, deacons are people who have been a part of the church for a considerable period of time. They know the people. They are loved by the members, so they can (Continued on page 6)

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# Harwell to retire early from Georgia state paper

ATLANTA (BP) — Jack U. Harwell, editor of the Christian Index for 21 years, has announced his early retirement effective Dec. 31.

The Christian Index, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention, is the oldest state Baptist paper in the Southern Baptist Convention and the second-oldest religious publication in America, founded by Luther Rice in 1822. Harwell, 55, has been editor longer than any other person in the paper's history. He was associate editor for nine years before becoming editor Nov. 1, 1966.

The Index board of directors named Jack P. Lowndes acting editor beginning Jan. 1. Lowndes is director of the church-minister relations department of the Georgia Baptist Convention. He was executive director and editor for the Baptist Convention of New York from 1975 to 1982.

Harwell has been under fire from conservative groups in Georgia and Southern Baptist life for years. They charged him with favoring moderates and abusing conservatives in the ongoing Southern Baptist theological/political controversy. An effort to fire him was made at the state convention in 1979, but he was supported by messengers.

In 1986 another effort to oust Harwell resulted in creation of the Christian Index review board, to review all editorials and articles in the paper and with power to recommend dismissal of the editor if members felt such action was appropriate. In August of 1987 that review board told Harwell the editorial he wrote about the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in June was a violation and said, "One more violation and we will recommend your termination."

At a called Index meeting Oct. 26, Harwell told the board: "With the creation of the review board I almost felt it necessary to submit my resignation. Hundreds of people across this state and nation advised me to resign at that time; they felt the integrity of

the paper had been so compromised that resignation was unavoidable. But in my private prayer life, God did not tell me to resign."

But he added, "All the terrible (SBC) events of the past few weeks made me take a new and harder look at my own ministry. I saw that I had not written my conscience in a single one of those recent issues. I had written what I knew would pass muster with the review board, not what I felt to be true and honest and prophetic. I could no longer live with the restrictions and censorship placed upon this newspaper and be true to my God, my heritage, my denomination, or my conscience."

Harwell said many people had advised him to make a floor fight over his situation at the upcoming Georgia Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 9-11 in Savannah. But he said: "Dozens of trusted advisers counseled that . . . it would result in a terrible division in our convention, one that would be a long time healing. I love this convention too much to participate, or allow someone else to initiate, such a rupture over my personal circumstances."

So he asked the Index board to hold the special session to accept his retirement and to make plans for a transition toward another editor. The board voted to give Harwell one year's salary and title to the Index automobile as a retirement package.

"The board of directors of the Index wish Dr. Harwell, his wife, and his family the best of everything in any future endeavors," said Index Chairman William A. Smith. "May they be assured of our prayers and interests. The board of directors was generous and fair and just in granting a retirement package for Dr. Harwell." Smith is pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., and chairs the five-member search committee named to seek a new editor.

"I am grateful for Dr. Harwell's skill  
(Continued on page 4)

# Porter Routh dies after brief illness

NASHVILLE (BP) — Longtime Southern Baptist Convention executive Porter W. Routh died Nov. 7 in Nashville following a brief illness. He was 76.

He underwent surgery Oct. 30, when surgeons discovered a malignant tumor in his abdomen. They bypassed the tumor with a colostomy and planned to treat it with chemotherapy.

Routh was executive secretary (now president) and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee from 1951 until his retirement in August of 1979. During that span he also was treasurer of the convention.

Routh was the son of the late E.C. and Mary Wroe Routh. His father was editor of two Baptist state newsjournals: Texas' Baptist Standard and Oklahoma's Baptist Messenger. He followed directly in his father's footsteps in 1942, when he took the

helm of the Messenger for three years.

Previously, the Lockhart, Texas, native had been a reporter for two daily newspapers and was secretary of Brotherhood and promotion for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma in 1942-43. He was secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board's department of survey, statistics and information from 1945 to 1950 and was SBC senior secretary from 1945 to 1951.

Following his retirement, he was an adjunct professor at Southern, Southeastern and Midwestern Baptist theological seminaries. He also was interim executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in 1980.

Routh also held numerous other posts. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church of Nashville. He had been  
(Continued on page 11)



These are the new officers of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission for next year. From left they are Eddie Smith, vice chairman; Bill Stewart, chairman; and Jack Bennett, secretary. Smith is president of East Mississippi Junior College. Stewart is pastor of First Church, Eupora. And Bennett is pastor of First Church, Ripley.

# Commission holds to formula

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission in its meeting Oct. 29-30 in Tupelo and at Blue Mountain College received an accusation that commission members will be held accountable for the end of Clarke College if they do not change their funding formula which increasingly lowers the amount of money Mississippi Baptists give to their junior college in Newton.

In a written report, delivered by Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles, Clarke Dean James Read told of his appreciation for the Education  
(Continued on page 4)

## The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 12, 1987

Published Since 1877

# Battle against obscenity is winnable, experts say

By Tim Fields

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — A proliferation of hardcore and child pornography which is devastating lives and destroying families in America can be stopped by thorough education, careful planning, and aggressive citizen action, four anti-pornography experts say.

The anti-pornography activists addressed a two-day conference of 150 Southern Baptists from four states and other church and community leaders, sharing stories of human tragedy linked to the production and consumption of pornography.

The conference, sponsored by the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and

the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission, also provided resources for participants to launch anti-pornography campaigns in their communities.

Alan Sears, who directed the United States Attorney General's Commission on Pornography which reported its findings in July 1986, told participants the commission found there was almost no comparison between the material found in pornography outlets in 1968 by a similar government commission and the much more explicit material sold today.

Sears, now legal counsel for Citizens for Decency through Law, said, "Pornography has grown from a relative-

ly small industry selling hundreds of million of dollars worth of materials each year to a multibillion-dollar industry which now has outlets in nearly every community in the United States where it is not controlled by law enforcement.

"In 1968 and recently, studies show that the largest category of consumers of all forms of pornography in America is 12- to 17-year-old children," he pointed out.

Sears said the pornographic materials which now fall into the hands of children are not the photos of pin-up girls that were occasionally seen on the walls of service station  
(Continued on page 5)

# Convention Board elects Don Wilson

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in its pre-convention meeting Monday, elected Don Q. Wilson to its

board staff, approved recommending to the convention the borrowing of up to \$2.75 million for Gulfshore expansion, staff housing there, and a Baptist student center at the University

of Mississippi. They also deferred judgment for further study a recommendation which would allow

certain staffers of Baptist student centers to receive retirement benefits.

Wilson, 42, a native of Webster County, was elected associational administration consultant to replace Ray Grissett, who was earlier promoted to direct the Cooperative Missions Department. Wilson is director of missions for Monroe and Itawamba County Baptist Associations.

Wilson is a graduate of Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Ariz., and earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He came to his present position in 1985 from First Church, Amory, where he was minister of education, 1983-85.

Earlier he held pastorates at Trinity Church, West Point, 1983-85; Poplar Springs, Vardaman, 1978-82; First, Kings Beach, Calif., 1976-78; Arbor Grove, Houston, 1975-76; Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans, 1972-75; and Desert Hills, Las Vegas, 1969-72.

Wilson and his wife, Nell, have two children, ages 18 and 13.

The recommendation for the loan is \$250,000 higher than that voted earlier because of the discovery of a need for a larger water storage and pumping capacity to satisfy fire regulations.

The motion from the Executive  
(Continued on page 11)



Wilson

# Education Commission holds to school funding formula

(Continued from page 3)

Commission's request for a one time line item in the MBC budget for \$55,000 to help allay Clarke College's deficit.

Read asked for further consideration of restoring the original funding formula which included Clarke fully in dividing administrative funds. He noted that only one position that of president, was eliminated in the merger with Mississippi College, and "because Mississippi College has not financially supported the operation of Clarke College as was made clear in the merger agreement."

Read wrote that the elimination of the administrative funding (a loss to Clarke of an additional \$30,000 per year to 1991) has been the main reason for the difficult financial situation

Clarke finds itself in today.

"Unless that decision is reversed and the pre-1983 funding formula restored, the Education Commission will have to bear the brunt of the responsibility for the closing of Clarke College, an institution that has been the bastion of conservative Baptist theological training in this state for the last nearly eighty years."

Clarke College which has an enrollment of the equivalent of 109 full time students, reported to the Education Commission that it suffered a \$136,458 budget deficit for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1987. Blue Mountain College, a four year institution with 248 full time equivalent students, had a \$72,577 surplus. Mississippi College, with 2,597 full time equivalent students, had \$7,500 left over. And

William Carey College, with 1,326 full time equivalents, had a fund balance at the end of the year of \$98,330.

Later in the meeting, the commission voted to recommend to the Mississippi Baptist Convention its allocation of funds to the three Baptist colleges, with the curtailment of the separate Clarke administrative funding intact. Total operations and capital needs budget is to be \$3,799,741.

The commission noted that since the commission and the Board of Ministerial Education now utilize the same figures for considering ministerial students, the total has dropped since the last school year. The total dropped from 205 in 1986-87 to 130 in 1987-88. These are defined as undergraduate Southern Baptists planning to enter full time preaching ministry who are ordained. Last year the total was 205. An extra portion of the educational funding goes to the schools based on the number of preaching ministry students.

Allocations per full time equivalent student for the four college entities, including Clarke which is yet calculated separately for funding purposes are Blue Mountain, \$1,855; Clarke, \$1,819; MC, \$610; and Carey, \$719.

The Board of Ministerial Education reported to the commission that 66 applications for financial assistance were approved to receive monthly aid of \$65-85 based on need.

The board reported that four one-time scholarships are being awarded at \$500 each to a student at each of the schools.

Total church-related vocational students at the Baptist colleges is 295, down from 366 last year. A proposal is to be offered at the convention in Jackson this week to include other categories than preaching in the eligibility listing for ministerial aid.



## Baptist Chaplain honored

Chaplain Charles McKnight, director of the Religion Department at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, received the first Annual Medicine and Religion Award from the Memphis Institute of Medicine and Religion, training facility for clerical pastoral education which the chaplain helped start 20 years ago. Mrs. Nancy Crosby, member of the board of directors, presented the award.

## Southeastern trustees to convene Nov. 17

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The full board of trustees of Southeastern Seminary will meet Nov. 17 to discuss the future of the 37-year-old school here, following the Oct. 22 announcement of W. Randall Lolley that he was setting in motion the termination of his presidency.

Lolley and Dean Morris Ashcraft met with four trustees Nov. 3 to discuss the details of the transition to a new president and dean.

Participating were Lolley, Ashcraft, trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley of Rockville, Md.; Vice Chairman James DeLoach of Houston; immediate past Chairman Jesse Chapman of Asheville, N.C.; and Lee Beaver of Chesterfield, Mo., chairman before Chapman.

The meeting was closed to the press. School officials refused comment on the meeting. "It was mostly just a matter of housekeeping," Crowley said.

The chairman said he did not know when Lolley's resignation would become effective. Crowley indicated names of potential successors are being compiled and the subject of the next president will be discussed at the Nov. 17 meeting.

Early speculation about Lolley's successor centered on Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and a leader in the nine-year effort to turn the Southern Baptist Convention to a more conservative direction.

Patterson was a speaker in an Oct. 22-23 Bible conference in Montrose Baptist Church, where Crowley is pastor, immediately following Lolley's surprise announcement. The conference also featured Gray Allison, president of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, which is not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, and a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Crowley — who said the Bible conference "just coincided" with Lolley's announcement — and Patterson both said the presidency of Southeastern Seminary had been discussed, Patterson added the discussion was "in broad, general terms. It was not about me."

Patterson told the Florida Baptist Witness he is reasonably sure he will be among the top candidates for Lolley's job, but also said his election would be "fairly controversial" and not very likely.

He said participants in the meeting — which he said included Crowley and "several other men" — generally were agreed on the type of president they would like to see at Southeastern: an experienced administrator with an earned doctoral degree who could "communicate with the churches of the Eastern Seaboard" and bring "strong conservative doctrine to the community, but in a respectable way."

(Continued on page 6)

## Jack Harwell retires

(Continued from page 3)

as a journalist and the knowledge he has brought to the task of reporting the events and the happenings in the rapidly changing scene of Southern Baptists," said James N. Griffith, executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee and treasurer of the Index.

"His strong commitment to promoting all of the missions programs of Georgia Baptists is especially appreciated," in Birmingham.

Harwell was a sports writer, public relations specialist and police reporter before joining the Index staff in 1957.

# Roberts loses suits totaling \$233,427

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Mercer University critic Lee Roberts has lost 23 lawsuits that have been filed against him and his company for failure to pay debts, according to the Atlanta Constitution.

Court judgments against Roberts in the 23 cases have totaled \$233,427, the newspaper said. Four other suits are pending.

The Constitution reported the lawsuits on its front page Nov. 4, less than one week before the Georgia Baptist Convention is expected to deal with charges by Roberts against Mercer University President R. Kirby by Godsey and the Mercer trustees.

In October, Roberts mailed to all Georgia Baptist pastors a 16-page booklet charging Mercer with allowing immorality and debauchery on the campus, and that Godsey is a universalist who "does not believe Jesus Christ died for our sins."

Godsey and the Mercer trustees denied the charges, and in a called board meeting adopted 10 resolutions reaffirming Godsey's integrity and Mercer's policies against drinking, pornography, and immorality on campus.

Roberts said the Constitution's latest news reports about lawsuits and court judgments against him are part of a smear campaign initiated by Mercer "to do everything they can to destroy me."

He pointed out the former editor of the Constitution, Reg Murphy, is a member of Mercer's board of trustees, and Mercer trustee Chairman Bob Steed is an editorial columnist at the Constitution.

During a meeting of Baptist pastors and laymen in Rome, Ga., Roberts accused Mercer of plotting a smear campaign against him and predicted

it would begin "with a rip-roaring, down-in-the-gutter" article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Four days later, the paper carried the story detailing Roberts' financial plight, reporting he has been accused of unethical behavior in some of the 23 lawsuits.

The newspaper carried detailed accounts from court records on the amounts Roberts owes to such creditors as Dunn and Bradstreet, Georgia International Life Insurance Company, Delta Airlines, Phenix Federal Savings and Loan Association, National Bank of Georgia, Citibank, First Atlanta Bank, Federal Express, and the Marietta Country Club.

Roberts attributed the lawsuits against him to efforts of former clients to recoup losses or avoid foreclosures and said the court judgments resulted from cash-flow problems in his business.

In a statement to Baptist Press, Roberts said he and his mortgage banking company lost \$1.1 million on short-term real estate loans when five of his real estate developer clients went into bankruptcy within the past two years. He said he was owed \$300,000 by clients who were "born again Christians" having financial difficulty. Since he believes the Scripture teaches Christians should not sue Christians, Roberts voided their notes, he said.

Because of the cash-flow problems, he said, he has not been able to pay all of his debts on time, but he will continue to pay them back when he is able to do so.

Roberts was chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Boards in 1986.



McCall, counselor at Sullivan Junior College of Business in Louisville, Ky., 1976-78; and was associate campus minister at the BSU at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1975-76.

McCall is a graduate of Louisiana State University and earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary in 1978.

He and his wife, Mary Anne, have two daughters, Megan and Margot.

## HELP WANTED—

# FMB leaders examine 426 job requests

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The need for greater emphasis on sacrifice and strategic placement of missionaries surfaced Oct. 15 as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders examined 426 missionary job requests for 1988.

The board's mission strategists, missionary enrollers, and area directors who oversee missions work met at the board's home office here to look at new positions recommended by the 3,800 missionaries already on the field.

Missionaries listed 307 positions that need to be filled by seminary-trained Southern Baptists with skills in evangelism and church development.

**"Preachers are needed for 213 general evangelism positions."**

Preachers are needed for 213 general evangelism positions. And sacrifice is needed on the mission field, said R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

"The Lord never promised the world would be easy to win," Parks said. A day is coming, he noted, when some missionaries will have "to live out of a suitcase" or live in one country to work in another country closed

to missionaries.

Sacrifice is a part of good strategy, Parks added. Strategy must be

### No. 1 request: "someone to plant churches in Tanzania"

governed more by a desire to win the world for Christ and less by missionary family concerns, he noted. Accessibility to an English-language school for the children cannot be a determining factor if missionaries are needed more in other areas, he explained. In such instances, Parks said, missions will have to seek alternatives for the children's schooling. This already is the practice in many parts of the world where parents teach their own children or at a certain age must send them to boarding schools.

Putting missionaries to work in institutions may not always be good strategy, he said. Hospitals and other institutions must be evaluated for their effectiveness in reaching a lost world for Christ, he noted. While many institutions are a vital ministry, he explained, some consume budgets and missionary manpower and do little for global evangelism.

Parks suggested a "leap" in strategy could occur if Southern Baptists can find ways to cooperate with other Christian groups in global evangelism.

Those at the meeting emphasized a

need to match the right missionary with the right job.

On a list of the top 25 job requests worldwide, the No. 1 request is for someone to live in the Kyela district of Tanzania to plant churches, help existing ones, train leaders and plan crusades in the rural area.

This part of Tanzania has experienced phenomenal evangelistic responses, with 40,000 baptisms in less than a decade. Missionaries Doug and Evelyn Knapp of Mississippi, have worked there for 16 years, but are nearing retirement.

A staff surgeon needed at the Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen ranks No. 2 on the job list.

### Health services accounts for 38 positions

Other high-ranking requests call for general evangelists and church planters in Taiwan, Tanzania, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Equatorial Brazil, Belgium, Mexico, Hong Kong, Zambia, Indonesia, Argentina and Greece.

Nurses are needed in Ethiopia in an area with no running water and electricity. A missionary to provide dental care and training is needed for a clinic in The Gambia. In Togo, where half of the population is college age or younger, a missionary is needed to coordinate a student ministry.

The 307 jobs listed under evangelism and church development also include those in seminaries, religious education promotion, music promotion, English language ministry, women's ministry, youth ministry, and student ministry.

Health services accounts for 38 positions, including 15 doctors, three dental personnel, and 16 nurses. Seventeen jobs fall under education, and 19 under business services, including jobs for a dozen business administrators.

Six are needed in support services, such as maintenance and construction, and 16 fall under community development, which includes eight jobs in agriculture and three in social ministry.

For the 1988 request year, which starts in October 1987 and ends in September 1988, there are requests for 221 auxiliary personnel. These are special assignment volunteers, Mission Service Corps personnel who serve from four months to two years, and journeymen whose term is two years.

Fifty-three auxiliary workers are needed to work in evangelism and church development, 65 in education, 29 in health services, 12 in media, 19 in support services, 28 in business services, and 15 in community development.

For the past year, 224 general evangelists were requested, and 58 of those requests were filled. About 50 to

60 general evangelists rise out of a pool of 15,000 seminary-degree pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention each year, noted Bill Morgan, director of the missionary enlistment department.

While the Foreign Mission Board struggles to find preachers to send overseas as general evangelists, it has less difficulty finding personnel for other positions, said Louis Cobbs, director of the board's personnel selection department.

Eric Miller writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

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## Battle against obscenity is winnable

(Continued from page 3)  
garages in 1968.

For example, he said, "There is now a whole series of best-selling video cassettes available in Mississippi and elsewhere that deals with the theme of incest. These videotapes, which are purchased or rented by parents and even teenagers, deal with sexual relations between mother and son, brother and sister, and extended family members including aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

"Other materials are even more explicit," Sears said. "I personally, with my staff, went into a store in Times Square, and we counted 45 different types of animals which were shown engaged in sexual acts with human beings.

"We also analyzed materials in 16 pornography outlets in six major cities. The overwhelming themes of the material commonly available in America today are degradation and humiliation of women and children and the rape myth which says that every woman alive secretly harbors a desire to be taken by force," he said.

Victor Cline, a clinical psychologist with the University of Utah, said he is counseling with a growing number of children who are becoming pornography addicts by calling dial-a-porn 900 numbers from their own home telephones and listening to erotic pornographic recordings.

Cline said one teenage boy, after listening to a dial-a-porn recording, went to a day-care center operated by his mother and raped a four-year-old girl.

"There are two victims in this pornography-related crime," Cline contended, "the boy who listened to the pornographic recording and the girl he raped.

"Many parents do not find out that their children are making these phone calls until the phone bill comes," Cline warned. Other parents, he said, never find out because their children use the phone somewhere else.

He cited the example of children who called dial-a-porn on the phone at a church during an extended break between services. In another instance Cline counseled with a mother whose 13-year-old son, several neighborhood friends, and her 10-year-old daughter listened to dial-a-porn recordings for 211 minutes and ran up a \$74 phone bill.

Immediately after the call the children began acting out the sexual acts they heard, and the son and several friends had sexual intercourse with the boy's sister after she asked them to "touch her" like the woman on the phone had described.

"Once these kids call dial-a-porn, they never stop making the calls," he explained. "It's addictive just like heroin or morphine," he said.

Cline said porno addicts follow the pattern which includes addiction, desensitization, and legitimization.

Jerry Kirk, executive director of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, told participants, "America and its relationship with pornography is like the Titanic headed for the iceberg." He said he has asked God to raise up people to "go up on the bridge of the ship to turn it around."

Kirk said his organization had joined forces with groups like the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to concentrate on stopping specific forms of pornography which are all illegal.

"I am committed to working with Larry Baker of the Christian Life Commission and others in mobilizing America to stop hardcore and child pornography," he said.

Rob Showers, executive director of the National Obscenity Enforcement Unit of the U.S. Department of Justice, told conference participants, "The fight against obscenity and child pornography includes two of the top seven criminal justice priorities of the United States Department of Justice as declared by the Attorney General last March."

Showers said this places pornography on the same level of concern as drugs and terrorism.

"One of the difficulties in fighting pornography is the relative lack of

awareness among the general public and among law enforcement officials and prosecutors as to the gravity and harmful effects of this ever-increasing plague," he said.

Showers also cited a lack of understanding about current laws related to pornography. "The Supreme Court categorically stated that obscenity has never been protected by the First Amendment or any part of the Constitution and is not protected today.

"Yet, if you polled the citizens of this country, they would believe that it is protected. Even in law school for many years this myth was perpetuated," he said.

Showers said the legal definition of obscenity as defined in Miller vs. California came down to a three-point test. "That basically can be defined as patently offensive sexual conduct that substantially throughout the material lacks serious value and, therefore, violates community standards," he explained.

Showers called on conference participants to join with the Christian Life Commission and other organized groups to learn how to fight pornography.

"Citizens are the primary moving force in changing laws and attitudes in this country," he said.

Tim Fields writes for the Christian Life Commission.

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

### Mae Mardis

If I were asked to name the friendliest person at Morrison Heights Church, I expect I'd say Mae Mardis. She stands in the foyer, her brown eyes smiling, and freely dispenses hugs and sunny greetings.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," her mother advised her. And she says it was the best advice she ever got. Every day she tries to do at least one good deed to help somebody else. It might be taking a bouquet of roses, her favorite flower, to someone, or making a phone call to someone who's lonely, or sitting down to listen to someone talk about his or her problems. Or it might be giving away a loaf of her homebaked bread, like she gave me when I stopped to ask her some questions.

Up before dawn and often still up past midnight, she plans her days in advance. Being retired does not mean to her "sitting down and doing nothing." Her favorite time of day is the sunrise. "The best time to be quiet and pray is in the morning as the sun comes over the horizon," she says. "I like to begin and end every day with prayer. Days just go better that way."

Her secret for staying energetic and enthusiastic for long hours is this:

"When you are asleep, sleep. When you are awake, give life all you have!" During the day, she does admit, she occasionally takes short naps. I don't think I know anyone else who has a weekly beauty appointment at 6 a.m. How early would she have to get up in Clinton to arrive at Mozelle's Beauty Shop in Jackson by 6? Her light brown hair is always perfect. She is slender and petite; her gorgeous clothes always look as if they were custom made for her.

Mae was a Guyton, born at Mantee on Dec. 13, 1921. Her maternal grandfather, Sam Gullette, helped to establish the Baptist church and the post office there. He named the town Montee for his beautiful black-haired, blue-eyed daughter, but the post office in Washington, D.C. misspelled the name as Mantee.

When Mae was eight, she and her younger sister, Louise, began singing duets at Mantee Baptist Church, where her dad, a rural mail carrier, was the song director. She didn't get stage fright then — or has she ever!

One of her earliest memories takes her back to the time of her sister's birth. Mae was sitting in a little rocker by a cozy fire, her two older brothers nearby, and she was allowed to hold

the new baby on her lap.

At age 9 she started taking piano lessons and by age 13 she began playing the piano at church. Though she accepted Christ when she was 11, she did not join the church until she was 13. That year she was baptized in the lake behind their house at Mantee. People being baptized always came to the Guyton house to change clothes.

When she was 15, Mae felt that the Lord was calling her to be a missionary, but she was sick a great deal of the time all through her teen years and was not able to enroll in college as she wished to do. She was graduated from high school in 1939 and taught Sunday School during her late teens at Mantee. Her mother, who had been a teacher before her marriage, taught her to be patient. She would say, "Learn to be content in whatever state you find yourself," and she would quote to her Proverbs 3:5, 6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Now, as she seeks to minister to others day by day, Mae feels that is one way she can be a missionary.

When she was 21, she moved to Jackson, her health having improved. Her sister (who is now Louise Skelton and lives at Pace) moved with her. Their first place of residence was on South President Street at Gale Hall. The day they arrived in the capital city on the Rebel train, August 25, 1943, in the middle of World War II, banners were waving for the new governor, Thomas P. Bailey. This was exciting to them, since Bailey was from their own county.

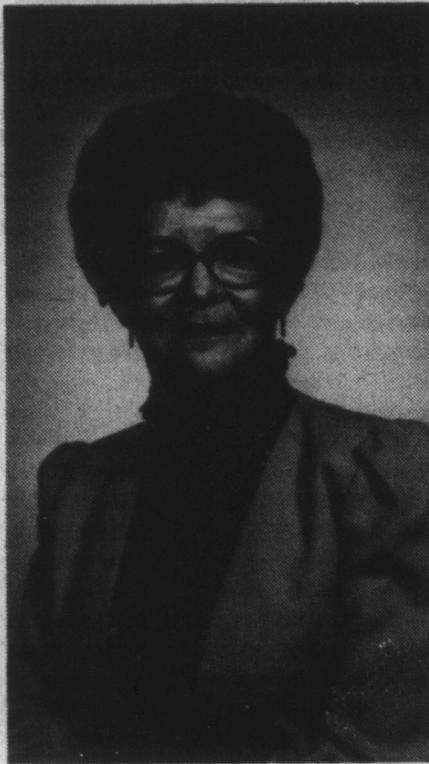
Mae found her first job with Mississippi Road Supply. Since she didn't have a car, she'd walk two blocks, catch a bus, change buses in front of the Edwards Hotel, and arrive at work at 7:30 a.m. — daylight saving time. Sundays she and her sister walked eight blocks to First Baptist Church. For a while she taught an 11-year-old girls' Sunday School class.

After she married R. H. Mardis on April 10, 1948, the two began attending Alta Woods Church. Their three children were born while they were living in south Jackson — David Guyton on June 2, 1949; Ruby Elizabeth, October 10, 1950; and James Harrell (Hal) on July 4, 1953.

David is a nuclear engineer; Beth is secretary to an attorney; and Hal sells federated insurance. Shortly

sibility is to minister to those who have real needs. It is tragic when we have not always fulfilled our God-given responsibility at this point. We believe that every deacon's meeting should provide a time for reporting on the witnessing and benevolent activities of the deacons.

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist.



Mae Mardis

before David's birth, Mae had a convulsion and was rushed to the hospital. One of the blood transfusions she received came from Clyde Davis, her pastor at Alta Woods, so she says she has a little "preacher's blood" in her veins.

In the mid-1950s, when she was looking for a new job, she prayed, "Lord, I don't know where to go. Just show me the place to stop when I get there." Driving along, she saw the Blue Cross-Blue Shield sign and recalled she'd met some of its employees at a Christmas party, so she stopped. "What are you doing here?" someone asked. And she answered, "The Lord sent me." She applied for a job, got it, and worked there for 27 years before her retirement.

In 1963, she and R. H. moved to 1301 Arlington Drive in Clinton and in 1971 they joined Morrison Heights. She plays the piano in the Sunday School Department for five-year-olds. The kids won't leave until they've given "Miss Mae" her weekly hug. "If you'll sit at eye level with the child and give each child plenty of love, you'll never have discipline problems," she told me. She's a member of DAR, and active in Pilot Club (she's been president) and Eastern Star. She's president of the Senior Sunshiners.

Last year R. H. died; he had worked at Lane Moak Pontiac for 20 years. Just before his death, their seventh grandchild was born prematurely, at seven months. (That child is now doing great.) To handle these crises, Mae remembered the song, "How Great Thou Art." She heard Sandi Patti sing that on television shortly after her daughter-in-law had been taken to the hospital. And she clung to the promise in her favorite Bible verse, Psalm 46:1. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

She told me the story of her life, and then she added a surprise: "Now I'm beginning a new chapter." She plans to marry Bill Holder, widower, her former neighbor on Charleston Drive, and a family friend for 30 years. Their wedding will be Thursday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m. at her home.

## Southeastern trustees to convene Nov. 17

(Continued from page 4)

Patterson acknowledged he meets those qualifications but said they fit many others as well. He said he expected the search committee to narrow the candidates to about 25 and "from what I've heard from the trustees, I'm reasonably sure my name is going to be among them." That list will be narrowed to five, from which one person will be picked to recommend to the full board, he said.

Concerning his chances, Patterson said, "it is very likely they will go a different direction," and pointed to his prominence in the "conservative resurgence" as a factor which makes him "fairly controversial."

He also said he is unlikely to leave his job at Criswell College, where he says he is in "a very happy situation where I have maximum freedom to operate."

Two trustees, Frank Jordan of

Chula Vista, Calif., and Mark Caldwell of Hyattsville, Md., said rumors were circulating that conservative trustees were grooming one of their own for the presidency even before Lolley announced his retirement.

Crowley denied the reports, as did trustee William Delahoyde, whose name was mentioned most often in the rumors.

Delahoyde, an assistant U.S. attorney from Raleigh, N.C., told the Witness the reports were "the product of someone's fertile imagination."

Although he holds both a law degree and a theological degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Delahoyde said he is too young and not qualified for the position.

Contributing to this report were R.G. Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, and Greg Warner, associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

Nov. 15-18 Foreign Mission Study (WMU Emphasis)  
Nov. 19-21 Prayer for Spiritual Awakening; Colonial Hgts. BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 19th-Noon, 21st (EVAN & SBC)  
Nov. 19-21 Christian Social Ministries Conference; Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville; 2 p.m., 19th-1 p.m., 21st (CoMi)

## Churches adopt expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the Sept. 10 issue of the Baptist Record. Adams — Southern Hills; Attala — FBC Kosciusko; Benton — Ashland; Bolivar — Shaw; Carroll-Montgomery — Vaiden; Chickasaw — Arbor Grove; Choctaw — Concord; Copiah — New Zion; Gulf Coast — Faithview, FBC Long Beach, Lakeshore and Woolmarket; Hinds-Madison — Calvary, Center Terrace and Edwards; Itawamba — Trinity; Jackson — Kreole Avenue; Jeff-Davis — Antioch and Ebenezer; Jones — Tuckers Crossing; Lauderdale — New Hope; Leake — New Providence and Tuscola; Lebanon — Crestview and Dixie; Lincoln — Arlington; Lee — FBC Verona and Mt. Vernon; Mississippi — Galilee; Monroe — Smithville; Neshoba — Coldwater and Linwood; North Delta — Crowder; Northwest — Mt. Manna; Rankin — Central and Union; Scott — East Forest; Simpson — Antioch, Eastside and Kennedy Springs; Sunflower — Eastwood; Tippah — West Ripley; Union — Elmo; Union County — Ingomar and Pleasant Ridge; Walthall — Union; Warren — Bowmar Avenue; Washington — Southside; and Yalobusha — FBC Water Valley.

## Devotional

### Living beneath our provision

By Fanny Cothran

Some weeks back, the story of a bag lady in New York City was told. She had lived in squalor, rummaging through garbage cans for food. She died and the people started moving out the stacked newspapers and garbage and they found over \$100,000.00. "How tragic," we say, "silly, stupid, unbelievable!" For that one, there are thousands living beneath their provision.

In Christ Jesus, all things are ours. Yet many who say they know him rummage through circumstances for a bit of joy. In John 16:24, Jesus tells us to ask in his name so that we may receive, that our joy may be full.

People scavenge for security in bank accounts, houses, insurance, and relationships. Things that can be wiped out in a moment by default or failure. They forget their hope is on the Solid Rock and spend little time with the Word. Jesus tells us the world will pass away, but his word will abide forever. He promised "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done" (John 15:7).

Is any sick among you? James shared God's provision: "Call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil" (James 5:14). We drag our tired diseased bodies through the day, ignore God's provision until all human resources are exhausted.

People of the King's family should live royally. Our Father has made every provision for us, including abundant life. As for me, I aim to live it!

Fanny Cothran is mayor of Lexington and a member of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

## The deacon's ministry

(Continued from page 2)  
assist greatly at this point.

Second, deacons should assist in proclaiming or carrying the gospel. A deacon should be a witness both in his life and in the word. Often these dedicated men can do more in reaching the lost than can a pastor.

Finally, a deacon should assist in caring for the needy in the community. A part of every church's respon-

## The president's address

# Our future — our hope!



Gunn

### By Frank Gunn

Last year at this time, I pointed out that the president's address is supposed to be a presentation of the state of the convention. I spoke on the topic, "The Best Is Yet To Be," and tried to deal with both negatives and positives within our convention.

Prior to the first meeting of the Order of Business Committee this year I began praying for the same assurance I had known the year before concerning the scripture and topic. I felt led to Ephesians 4 and wrote down several potential themes. Though I cannot take credit for the theme selected, I did receive the verification in that meeting that this emphasis was from our Heavenly Father. In this chapter, Paul presents an exhortation to unity as well as practical instructions for living. I will attempt to make several applications from this passage in the presentation of this address.

The positive applications I shared last year are still very applicable. I would once again express profound gratitude for such things as the mission emphasis of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. This is a mission emphasis that is revealed through an ever increasing percentage of Cooperative Program dollars channelled through Southern Baptist Convention causes. That figure becomes 37 percent with the adoption of the 1988 budget.

This lifeline of support to the Foreign Mission Board has resulted in an average of 3,570 baptisms and 20 new churches each week. That means, in an average week, there is one new Christian baptized for each overseas missionary we support through the Cooperative Program.

This is an emphasis that is revealed in and through the local church that is called, "Bold New Growth Mississippi." We are hearing these testimonies throughout the convention sessions.

This is a mission emphasis revealed through a program called "The Mississippi Mission" that provides, through endowment, for our children at the Baptist Children's Village and the thousands of students being educated at our Baptist colleges. One year ago we were approaching the 22 million dollar figure toward our 40 million dollar goal. A new figure is being revealed in this convention by Chairman Harry Vickery.

As we consider the topic, "Our future — our hope," I recognize the importance of our being united in spirit and intent on purpose. As your president, I want to share and major on some of my concerns and needs I see within our convention.

1. There is so much unused potential in the lives of our laypeople. In every phase of the Christian church, laypersons are coming into their own. We need to emphasize the shared ministry concept. If we are teaching that every Christian is a minister, then pastoral ministers must be willing to release laypersons to perform their ministries. It is our job to equip and motivate the laity in ministry and witnessing as fellow ministers. I certainly see my role as a pastor as one who serves and not one to rule.

2. In the early verses of Ephesians 4 Paul gives us the exhortation to unity. Long ago, the Peace Committee urged Southern Baptists to exercise restraint, to refrain from divisive action and comments, and to reflect Christian love. In July, former Mississippi Baptist Convention President and Peace Committee Vice Chairman, Charles Pickering, said, "I'm optimistic; we've weathered the worst." I have tried to build upon the emphasis of my predecessor. I have attempted to preach and live the theme of peace and harmony these last two years. I have tried to be open and fair as I have emphasized the team concept.

Recently, we were saddened by the untimely

death of Home Mission Board trustee, Beth McGhee from Tucson, Ariz. She had just made a plea for peace in the denomination when she collapsed in her seat at the meeting of the Home Mission Board. She died of a heart attack within moments of her collapse. "The thing I desire most is that peace be in our convention, that two sides be brought together. We're hurting if we don't. We're not reaching as many lost people if we don't care together." Those were her final words.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, responded by telling board members that "There's a day when all of us have an inevitable appointment with our Lord. None of us knows when that moment will come, but all of us know it will come. And that's what we're all about: preparing ourselves and others for our inevitable appointment with our Lord. When that time comes for me, I hope that it might be my joy to be speaking for a good cause. I think that all of us want to reflect on the fact that this dear lady was calling our convention to peace and her last word to us was a longing plea that we might be together again."

As I close my two years, I continue to plead with you that we seek to live in peace and harmony. I desire that we all long for good relationships in our state.

3. As leaders, I see such a great need for integrity. We have all been touched by scandals in the lives of TV religious personalities. It seems there are so many who have slipped away from the sensitivity of the Lord by yielding to temptations and trials of the world. It seems they gradually ignored God's will in small details and then in larger ones, hardening hearts into stone. My, how they are deceiving. We must reveal to our people that our commitment to Jesus is for real.

It may very well be that there is a lack of integrity in the political games we play. This kind of response certainly hinders our influence for Christ.

A couple of months ago I preached a strong sermon on moral issues of our day. That afternoon an anonymous caller contacted me and talked for about 15 minutes on the telephone. He was an older man who had viewed the morning service over WLOX-TV.

I can still almost quote his response perfectly. "You Baptists are a bunch of dictators. You are holding Mississippi back because you live in the dark ages. You are against everything good and progressive."

I had preached that morning on issues like abortion, gambling, etc. I had reminded our people that we Mississippi Baptists are some 640,000 strong and we should be influencing our state for good. Finally, I thanked the gentleman for calling and hung up as he continued his outburst against Baptists.

My first reaction was one of anger but then I took his call as a compliment. You see, the influence and integrity of the pulpit of First Baptist Church in Biloxi was showing and it struck home in the life of that unknown caller. It is much more important that we preach and live what is pleasing to our God even when it means receiving such irate reactions.

Our integrity and influence are put to the test when we become suspicious, assume things, jump to conclusions, share partial facts, and gossip. Many, if not most of us, have potentially sacrificed our integrity and influence at this point. Ephesians 4:29 teaches us "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

4. I share a concern for our future relative to the genuineness of our love and compassion for others. Meredith Wilson wrote in *The Music Man*, "a bell's not a bell till you ring it, a song's

not a song until you sing it. Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay, for love isn't love till you give it away."

That is exactly what happened several weeks ago when the eyes of this nation, and to some degree, of the world, were focused on Midland, Texas. Eighteen month old Jessica McClure was the recipient of all that attention as a result of falling into that eight-inch in diameter well.

People responded in so many different ways for those 58½ hours of waiting. Trained professionals gave their time to drill the shaft alongside the well. Equipment was moved in, medical personnel made themselves available, and people gave items like diamond drill bits costing \$5,000 each. One lady said she gave herself to prayer during the entire time. We all found ourselves reaching out to this little girl — a total stranger to us. We prayed, wept, and stayed involved throughout that long ordeal.

Did you see little Jessica reach out and touch the face of the paramedic as they were pulled from the shaft? I'm sure you wept with the sense of victory just as I did. All of these efforts and all that expense to save the life of one little girl. Love and rejoicing were written on the faces of all who were involved in that gallant rescue effort. Sure it was worth it, for the life of a precious little girl was saved.

This same kind of love, compassion, and respect for lives in the spiritual realm must have our attention on an increased basis. The test of God's love among us is the way we live with one another. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:30-32, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

Most of you are aware that I was elected a year ago to serve as the president of the presidents' fellowship. This is the organization of the elected leaders of all the state conventions. My theme of leadership in that group was that we use our role of leadership as peacemakers. In other words, put into practice the teachings from the Ephesians letter.

It was in the September meeting of the Executive Committee in Nashville, where we presidents were guests, that Adrian Rogers addressed the group and stated he had no bitterness in his heart toward anyone. He went on to say that if he was in the presence of one speaking evil of another, he would reprimand that person. This is a worthy goal for us all as we apply the Ephesians 4 lessons to our own lives.

5. Lastly, I share a real concern as to our motivations. It is the world that defines success in terms of wealth, power, and prestige. If there are the driving forces in our lives then we have accepted false standards. God's measurement of success is entirely different.

One week ago today, long time associate with Billy Graham, Grady Wilson was buried. In the memorial service held at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, No. CA., his brother, T. W., told of an experience in the hospital prior to his death. A nurse asked Grady, "Aren't you just a little bit afraid of death? Just a tiny bit afraid to die?" He responded, "Honey, why should I be afraid? I am going to see Jesus!"

What a testimony! This is far superior to all of the titles that are left behind in the legacy of Grady Wilson.

Tony Campollo in his book, *Who Switched The Price Tags?* deals with this very topic as he emphasizes our quest for titles and trophies. He reminds us that when this earthly journey is concluded it will be the testimonies that count and not all the titles that have come our way.

My preacher grandfather never had the biographical resume his grandson has. He was called to preach late in life and did go to Mississippi College but never had any seminary training. His entire ministry was in rural churches. The largest, I suppose, was Rocky Creek near Lucedale, where our first vice-president now serves.

Well, earlier this year I preached a revival at the Prentiss Baptist Church and someone asked me to go by to see one of the elderly shut-ins of the church family. I went to the house, knocked on the door, and waited until Mrs. J. O. Boyd made her way to the door on her walker.

This dear lady shared with me some historical information about how my grandfather had been her pastor and close friend in years gone by. She then let me read some letters he had written her. One was written on Dec. 10, 1958, where he stated that my grandmother was nearing total blindness and that he was living under the dread of losing a foot due to his diabetic condition. Then he wrote, "We are worn out. Looking for our final call and hearing, well done. The long hoped for goal." His next letter, about a year later, conveyed the message of my grandmother's death.

Now, I ask you which is more valuable and lasting — the title found in our biographical resumes or the testimonies that center around "Well done"? May God grant us the privilege of seeing with the eyes of heaven as we make these choices in life.

In 1982, I was preparing to lead in the wedding ceremony for our only daughter. I wanted it to be very special so I searched for some fresh, new ideas. In the course of my studying I ran across a poem entitled, *God's Lent Child*. It appeared in a book written by Paul Powell, who is pastor of the Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, and also President of the Texas Convention.

The poem had nothing to do with marriage but a beautiful analogy is given in the presentation. For example, let me share excerpts from the poem:

"I'll lend you for a little while  
A child of mine," God said —  
For you to love the while she lives,  
And mourn for when she's dead.  
But will you, till I call her back,  
Take care of her for me?  
But there are lessons taught  
below  
I want this child to learn.  
I've looked the whole world over  
And from the things that crowd  
life's lane  
I have chosen you.  
We will shelter her with  
tenderness,  
We'll love her while we may —  
And for the happiness we've known  
Forever grateful stay.

This poem conveyed to me the reminder that out of all the potential parents here on earth, God gave to Sandra and me our three lent children. We were given the opportunity and responsibility to care for them.

These are parallel teachings for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In the infinite wisdom of God, He has given us the privilege to serve at this strategic time in our respective churches. He has chosen each of us for a particular place and with a particular people. We must not waste and squander our opportunities. It is as though God says, "Take care of that person for me. Take care of that responsibility for me." In this sense these applications are like the lent child.

We have cause for optimism as we claim our future in him who is our hope!

Frank Gunn is pastor, First Church, Biloxi.

## Moyers SBC documentary will air on PBS Dec. 16

FORT WORTH (BP) — Southern Baptists are the topic of one documentary in a three-part series on, "God and Politics," produced by Bill Moyers to air on the Public Broadcasting Service in December.

Moyers, press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson and former commentator on CBS-TV, filmed portions of the documentary at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

Southern Baptists interviewed for the documentary include Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary; T.B. Maston, professor of Christian ethics emeritus at Southwestern; Bruce Corley, associate professor of New Testament at Southwestern; W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas; Paul Pressler, Houston judge and leader of the conservative movement in the

convention; James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Church, Midland.

The segment on Southern Baptists is titled "The Battle for the Bible."

It is scheduled to air Dec. 16 in most areas. Due to the independent nature of PBS affiliates, dates may vary by location. Check local listings for details.

The first segment in the series is called "The Kingdom Divided" and deals with differing opinions in the United Methodist Church on Central America. It is scheduled to air Dec. 9. The third segment, "Paradise Restored," is about the Christian reconstruction movement. It is scheduled to air Dec. 23.

Moyers is a 1960 graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

For more than 40 years, Kathryn Waites, as preschool director at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, has been reaching, teaching, and ministering.

Mrs. Waites began working in the preschool department of Fifth Avenue Church, which in 1950 became Temple Church. In addition to playing a key role in the shaping of young lives, she leads conferences for preschool teachers at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Con-

ference Center). Mrs. Waites has also worked in numerous Sunday School growth campaigns, and is preschool director for the local Lebanon Association.

Kathryn is married to Edgar Waites, a local businessman and realtor, and they have two sons, Andy and Joe.

She was recognized on Sunday, Nov. 1, during the morning worship service with the presentation of a plaque. A reception was held in her honor following the evening worship hour.

Ken Hopkins is minister of education and Harry L. Lucenay is pastor.

Waites

At Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Con-

## Senior Adult Corner

North Winona Church, Winona, sponsored a "Senior Citizen Day," Oct. 25, in appreciation for all their members and guest 60 years old or older. The morning service was dedicated to this group which included approximately 65 percent. Lunch was served in the fellowship hall afterwards. The church participates in the deacon watchcare ministry and each deacon was asked to be present and have his picture made with those present from their family group. Fourteen certificates were presented to members being 80 years old or older. The oldest two present were Mrs. Annie King and Arthur Taylor. The church membership includes 51 members in their sixties, 41 members in their seventies, 14 members in their eighties, and two members over ninety, a total of 108 senior adults. To commemorate the occasion a poem was written by a church member. Frank Bishop is pastor.

The OASIS Club of Immanuel Church, Columbus recently held its first fun and organizational meeting. This group of church members, aged 50 and up, participated in a shopping

spree at Galleria Mall in Birmingham, Ala. During their travel time, the club elected their 1987-88 officers. The club's name, OASIS, stands for "Older Adults Still in Service." The Immanuel OASIS Club has received certification by the state and national Southern Baptist Convention.

Members are Lilly Jay Woolbright; J. E. Sims, staff senior adult consultant; A. J. Price, president; Mack Price; Gerry Gills; Frances Spivey, secretary-treasurer; John Spivey; Mary Black; Mary Nell Bobitt; David Bobitt; Mamie Southerland; B. D. Southerland; Martha Sherman; Jack Sherman; and Bert Nagy, vice president.

Mrs. Jennie Davis was elected president of the Saints Alive Senior Adult Club at Greenfield Church, Greenville at the monthly meeting Oct. 29. Mrs. Lil Phillips is the outgoing president and Sonny Redwine, pastor, is senior adult coordinator. J. Clark Hensley, senior adult consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was the speaker for the October meeting. Twenty-four senior adults were present.

## Hepzibah (Lawrence) to mark 170th year

Hepzibah Church, Lawrence Association, will celebrate its 170th birthday on Nov. 15. The church has remained in one location, but has occupied several buildings.

Morning services will begin at 10. Lunch will be served; a special birthday service will be held in the afternoon, beginning at 1:30.

Bob Goolsby, pastor, said, "We will remember the old days, have plenty of good food, sweet fellowship, and the renewing of old friendships."

## League distributes Bibles in Brazil

SOUTH HOLLAND, Illinois (EP) — The World Home Bible League reported that 8 million copies of the Portuguese New Testament have been distributed in Brazil, in the first thrust of a project aimed at giving every Brazilian student a copy of the new, easy-to-read book by the year 1990.

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# Just for the Record

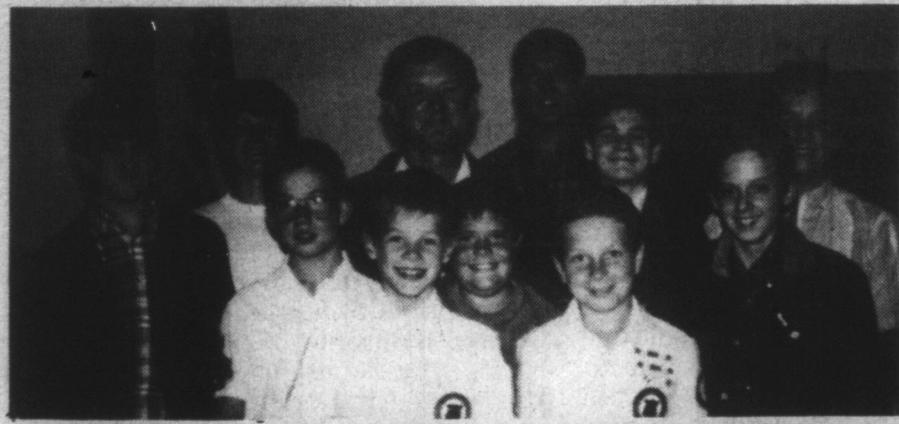


The Girls in Action Organization of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, kicked off the church's centennial celebration with their recognition service on Sept. 30. Decorations, reception and program all centered around the centennial. Speakers

were Mrs. Robin Smith, GA director, Mrs. Sybil Myers, church centennial chairman, and Mrs. Cherry Blackwell, associational centennial chairman. There were 28 girls and nine leaders participating.



On Oct. 4 during the morning and evening worship services, Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, launched the Women's Missionary Union's Centennial to be celebrated May 15, 1988 throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. This Sunday morning was designed as SWEET REMINDER SUNDAY. As the congregation entered the sanctuary they were given a sweet mint along with a sweet reminder stating: "WMU was organized nationally May, 1888. WMU was organized at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, September 21, 1930. Our goal: Quality Missions Education for Everyone." Bill Fuller is pastor.



The William Brown RA chapter of Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs, had the honor of hearing their namesake, William Brown, deliver a message on his recent visit to Gore Springs Church. William Brown is a former resident of Gore Springs community and is now on furlough from Togo, Africa. Brown displayed some artifacts from Africa, showed slides, and he and his family came dressed in African attire.

Pictured, from left, front row, are Jonathan Blakely and Mark Floyd; 2nd row, Chad Carpenter, Stephen Thompson, Tyson Blakely, and Mark Fielder; 3rd and 4th rows, Jonie Blakely, counselor, Brown, Larry Blakely, counselor, Chris Floyd, and Darren Hood.



Wildwood Church, Clinton, broke ground on October 4 for a 1.2 million dollar construction project which will include an educational building and additional parking space. The congregation has either purchased or erected eight facilities across its 12 year history.

Being constituted with 44 members on November 17, 1974, Wildwood has grown to 790 members, given 10 percent of its offerings to the Cooperative Program and supplies housing and transportation for two foreign missionary families whenever on furlough.

Wildwood is located on Springridge Road, two miles south of I-20. Fred G. Womack is pastor.



Members of Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln Association, with perfect attendance in Sunday School totaling 60 years, are pictured, left to right, Dianne Smith, 18, receiving a 12 year pin, Lanier Smith, receiving a 30 year pin and Darrell Smith, 20, receiving an 18 year pin.

T. W. Hunt, prayer consultant for the Church Training Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., will be at Carey Chapel Church, Mt. Pleasant, Marshall Association, Nov. 20-22. He will be teaching and preaching each evening at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

He will be teaching the book he authored, *The Doctrine Of Prayer*. This was the Adult Baptist Doctrine Study for 1987. Ken Bradley is pastor.



First Church, Florence, recently celebrated 163 years of ministry with homecoming. L. C. Hoff, former pastor, returned from Eudora, Ark. to preach the morning message. Six new members were added to the church bringing, for the first time ever, the membership to 1,004.

Homecoming Sunday was the first Sunday for Jerry W. Smith who is minister of education and outreach for the church.

Pictured, left to right: back row, are Steve Warren, minister of music and youth; Smith; front row, Hoff, pastor, and George E. Meadows, pastor.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Abraham obeys when God calls, battles to rescue Lot

By Rex Yancey

Genesis 12:1-7; 14:11-12, 17

Ur a city built by the first king of the dynasty of Ur. The first king was Ur-Nammu. The city of Ur became extremely significant in

later days. The population was approximately 250,000 in 626 B.C. Archeologists have discovered clay tablets that revealed that these people developed a law code, a standard for weight and measures, unusual achievements in medicine, geometry, and metal work.

Yancey Terah, the father of Abraham, moved from Ur to Haran. Haran was a central Mesopotamian city on the left bank of the river Balakh. This river flows into the Euphrates. There was a center of moon worship located in Haran. Terah was on the way to Canaan when, for some reason, he settled in Haran. He died there. Terah was 70 years old when Abram was born. In Genesis 31:53, Laban asserts that the God of Terah and Nabor was the God of Abraham. Francisco said, "When Abram was called, it was not necessary to for-



### BIBLE BOOK

sake the god of his father but rather to purify his worship."

Families stayed together for security. We know these families as patriarchal families. The father was the leader of the group. But God instructed Abram to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house. Approximately 300 years had passed since the flood. Abram was accustomed to polytheism (many gods). He gave up what was basic in that day to do what God said in the midst of many gods. In return for Abram's giving up his land, kindred, and father's house, God would give him land and descendants, and make his name great.

God made a covenant with Abram. This covenant was a promissory covenant. This covenant contained a command, an objective, a resolution, and a promise. The command was to go and be a blessing. The objective was that Abram would make a great nation and that God would bless him. The resolution was that God would bless those who blessed Abram and curse those who cursed him, and God would make his

name great. The promise was that all the earth would bless themselves through the seed of Abram.

Ryle in the Cambridge Bible Series on Genesis said, "Abram was to renounce the certainties of the past to face the uncertainties of the future and to look for and to follow the directions of Yahweh's will." In return for his faith and obedience God would make his name great by making him the father of a multitude (17:5), a prince of God (23:6), a man in God's confidence (18:17-19), a prophet (20:7), and a friend of God (20:7).

In chapter 13 a test arose between Abram and his nephew Lot. Abram exhibited wisdom and a strong faith as he faced this test. Abram's proposal resolved the tension that was between them without creating any new ones. By faith Abram had already left his security and opted for the unseen. He had no need to make a judgment "by the sight of his eyes." Lot, on the other hand, made a bad choice. Sodom may have looked better than the barren mountains, but it brought corruption and insecurity.

Abram still felt the kinsman to Lot and intervened when the kings made a war pact to loot the cities of the plain. He went and made

war with the kings and rescued Lot. As far as Abram knew at this time, Lot would be his heir to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise.

There is a profound contrast between the characteristics of the two kings who came to meet Abram after his victory in the battle against the kings. Melchizedek offered Abram an unspecified blessing and accepted from Abram a costly tribute. The kind of Sodom wanted to make a business deal with Abram in order to arrange his security. Abram would not compromise his calling. Melchizedek worshipped El'elyon. Abraham worshipped Yahweh. However, it turned out that they both worshipped the same God while calling him by different names.

Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek. He gave part to symbolize that he was giving all. Abram needed to respond in some significant way to the God who possessed heaven and earth and delivered him from his enemies, and made a covenant with him. One bumper sticker read, "If you love Jesus, tithe, any fool can honk!" Faith in God is not cheap. However, we make our faith cheap when we fail to give of that which costs us something.

Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

## Jealousy and your children: don't play favorites

By Julian W. Fagan III  
Genesis 35:22b-29; 37:1-36

Joseph was a tremendous man. He was not so bright as a boy, in relationships, that is. He is the favorite of the sons. His father contributed

largely to this situation by having multiple wives and concubines. The house was divided from the beginning, but Joseph added to the problem by being a tattler (Gen. 37:2) and by flaunting his conviction of personal superiority over his brothers and parents in verbalizing his father.

Fagan his dreams. Even this was not unusual for a child. The issue became a fixed problem through the attitude and actions of Jacob, the father and head of the household. Gen. 36:4, "When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him."

Jacob's feelings are understandable and perhaps normal. Joseph was the first child of his favorite wife. He had to work 14 years to earn Laban's favor to have Rachel. Finally she bore him a son, and he loved Joseph more than all the others. Even when Benjamin came along,

### UNIFORM

Joseph remained his favorite. He openly demonstrated his partiality, one way was in giving him that special robe. Joseph wore the coat of favoritism for all to see. No doubt each would have loved such a coat and such support from his father.

How do the brothers react to a sibling who is obviously the chosen one of the group? Many ways, but always with a consistent dislike. Their great need was love and acceptance from their daddy. They had four different mothers, but one father. They each needed his love and personal approval. When Jacob singled out Joseph as his favorite, he enthroned Joseph and demoted the rest. They were jealous. Among a group of boys and young men, what else can you expect?

The deep-seated jealousy they held resulted in a desire to kill him. Reuben had enough influence to prevent Joseph's murder and Judah enough to talk them into selling him to the Ishmaelites. The jealousy drove them to be rid of the one who took their father's favor from them. They devised a scheme to convince their dad of Joseph's death. They chose to watch their dad and brother suffer because of their

jealousy. The same emotion caused Cain to kill his brother Abel.

Parenting adults should be able to see in the lesson the tremendous dangers that can result from showing favoritism to certain of their children. While the tendency may be normal, it has horrendous results. Each child needs special attention and favors from his parents. To exclude any child from that love and support plants the opportunity for jealousy to bring hatred and hurt to a family. Many who study this lesson will feel a conviction arising from days now passed. They may recall how favoritism was shown in the past to their brother or sister instead of them. Even if these children are gone from home, they may still carry those lingering emotions from childhood. Children, though grown, need to be loved by their parents.

The dangers of jealousy are not limited to family. Favoritism occurs in the classroom, on the ballfield, in the factory, in the board meeting, and at the social club. Christians need to learn the value of every human being and the need in every person to be loved and encouraged. We have here an opportunity to remove a festering sore from our lives by dealing with the cause of jealousy. It can be removed with love and affirmation.

Some who study this passage will identify with the brothers who are left out. They know the feeling of rejection. As teachers and Christians, encourage them to deal with their feelings by being honest about them. As people admit how they really feel, they have taken the first step toward overcoming an attitude that can bring harm not only to the object of that jealousy but to themselves.

There are political favorites, class favorites, favorite horses, favorite teams, favorite teachers, favorite vacations, favorite holidays, favorite recipes, favorite friends, and favorite days in the week. But, when it comes to children and family there should be no favorites. To lift up one over the others is to deny the others. Family is to be the place where children know they are loved. Jacob spent many years grieving over the favorite son. Had he affirmed the others more, he may have had much less to grieve over. The world is hard enough; help your children face it with your love and support. God will honor that.

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

Abraham was the father of Ishmael, Isaac, Midian, and others (Gen. 25:2). The Ishmaelites and Midianites apparently lived and did business together. They were relatives of the brothers through their great grandfather Abraham.

## Rightly related to others, by the Spirit-filled life

By Al Finch  
Galatians 6:1-10

Unfortunately the chapter divisions sometimes confuse a passage of scripture. The background of Galatians 6:1-10 is found in Galatians 5:22-26. The Spirit-filled life enables us to be "rightly related to others."

Now the passage presents a practical pattern for expressing the Christian life. There is RESTORATION of those who go astray (Galatians 6:1-2). Evidently there was no specific event or person in mind but an attempt to set the pattern of Christian action. "Ye which are spiritual" obviously refers to those who manifest the fruits of the Spirit.

Restoration is to be done in "the spirit of meekness." Meekness is not weakness but a mature vision of life as God sees it. No man has

### LIFE AND WORK

the right to be self-righteous in dealing with another's fault. Care must be taken lest having "preached to others" one should become a "castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). Restoration is commanded by "the law of Christ."

We hear "one another's burdens" in obedience to that commandment. What burdens are indicated is not clear but people around us are greatly burdened. Burdened men face are loneliness, fear, guilt, grief, and illness. No spiritual man can ignore the opportunity to assist a brother in these crucibles.

In restoration there is a REMINDER (Galatians 6:3-6). No man has the right to a self-inflated opinion of himself in helping a weaker brother. We are all weak! Any opinion otherwise is self-deceptive. Every man is to give attention to "his own work." Jesus reminded us that the

"mote" in a brother's eye is not as serious as the "beam" in our own eye (Matthew 7:4-5). No conflict exists between Galatians 6:2 and 6:5. One helps another but is reminded to be responsible for his own life.

Galatians 6:6 reminds us that the man who restores his erring brother needs to remain close to God. God alone can give the strength for rightly relating to others.

For restoration there is REWARD (Galatians 6:7-8). We all function under the law of the harvest; we reap what we sow. A basic principle of human development is that we are in the process of being. The ultimate outcome of our lives is predictable. What we are sowing now we will reap later. Flesh is living in one's own strength and corrupts human nature. Spirit living enables him to live in fellowship with God. Two ways to approach life with our fellowman are given but the consequences of each way is inevitable.

Finally for restoration there is the RE-

QUIREMENT (Galatians 6:9-10). One should not weaken in the course of action demanded: restoration of the faulted brother. Frustrations come in helping others but we take heart because of the harvest principle. In the process there is reaping. We must not "faint." No disappointment should hinder our effort for "well doing."

As opportunity afforded the believer is to be rightly related to "all men." Special attention should be given to those who are of the "household of the faith." Man will be no better generally than he is specifically. Right relationships begin at home. Watch the man who cannot relate redemptively in his church and you will soon discover that he often fails to relate in other areas of his life as well.

Look for the opportunities around you for bearing another's burdens. Someone near you may be lonely, or another grieving. Find ways to express the Spirit-life that you have received.

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.





## I get jealous

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76160

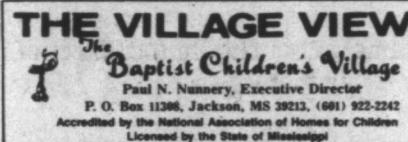
I have a jealousy problem. Whenever my boyfriend looks at another girl, my stomach ties in a knot. I know it may be an inferiority complex or just being immature. But I feel he owes it to me to respect our relationship. But then he gets mad at me for being jealous. Any ideas?

Jealousy is a typical reaction for most people at times. But when it is constant or uncontrolled, it brings great sorrow. Love is based on mutual trust and concern. It is demonstrated by acts of consideration, not jealousy.

There are several approaches to solving this problem. One is to find the cause. If you have a feeling of inferiority, try to discover why. See what experiences in your background gave you these feelings. What can you do to change that self-image? Perhaps you could make a list of your best qualities and things you want to improve. Ask your friends and family to help you with this.

Second, remember that no one achieves romantic security in his or her teens. In adolescence you need to vary your friendships and your dating to include many different people. This will help prevent the extreme possessiveness that becomes jealousy. This variety helps you to develop in the social realm, too. It can make you more competent to make a wise choice of a lifetime partner later.

Third, talk with a counselor about these feelings if they persist. Say out loud the things you have locked inside. Use this same approach to God, too. It's called prayer! Ask for his guidance, his point of view! This will improve your sense of self-worth and give you strength in handling your emotions.



To invest in the welfare of special children is to cement and preserve one's name and influence, to eternity, through redeemed, up-lifted and redirected lives, the beneficiaries of such an investment.

Involved observers of Village efforts, including senior members of the Agency's staff, endorse that theory and attest the validity of its philosophy because they have witnessed the changing of children's lives, energized by gifts designed to honor and memorialize the good names of others. On virtually every working day, sensitive and sacred memorial investments in the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village are recorded in its offices, acknowledged through correspondence, and listed in this space. On occasion, the compassionate generosity of exceptional Christians becomes noteworthy, not just in the material value of their giving, but in the examples of their lifestyles and the inspiration of their motivation. We here mark such an occasion as we humbly and gratefully acknowledge the exceptionally unselfish pattern of giving which characterized the lives of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wayne W. Myers of Jackson, who demonstrated their compassionate concern for children with special needs in a manner and to a degree which, we submit, commands public attention to their Christian commitment and to the persuasive and timeless influence of their good names. No individuals known to our staff sought recognition less — the lasting impact for good which is found in their gift of memory would seem to

demand our special attention.

In a statement released by The Village's Executive Director, Paul N. Nunnery, the creation of a permanent memorial, honoring Lt. Curtis Howell Myers, late of Jackson, Mississippi has been announced. Lt. Myers was the son of the late Wayne W. and Eva Ragland Myers, whose selfless giving during the period of their natural lives, supplemented by substantial bequests in their last Wills and Testaments, has supplied the resources to establish the Curtis Howell Myers Memorial at The Baptist Children's Village. Lt. Myers lost his life in the military service of his country, at the age of 24 years, on May 24, 1944.

Curtis Howell Myers, the only child of his parents, was born in Jackson, Mississippi on April 14, 1920. A graduate of Central High School of Jackson in June of 1938, he attended Military Service in August of 1941. Graduating from several Air Corps Technical Schools, he was awarded his Wings as an Air Corps Pilot and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in June of 1943. He was married to Loretta Mae Barrett in December of 1943. A son of that union, also now deceased, was born after his death. On May 25, 1944, Lt. Myers lost his life, on military duty in the crash of the aircraft to which he was assigned. Executive Director Nunnery has recounted, from his multiple private visits with the parents of Lt. Myers, how they determined, in June of 1973, that the most appropriate and redemptive tribute they could effect to the life and

## Convention Board elects Don Wilson

(Continued from page 3) Committee which was deferred would have designated the Baptist Student Unions across the state as a "church" for Internal Revenue purposes to allow the staffers not covered otherwise to participate in the expanded church annuity program of the SBC Annuity Board.

Several board member objected to the use of the term "church" for any

entity other than a regular church. Baptist associations in the state and certain evangelistic associations are already under the "church" plan.

A later check with the Annuity Board determined the support staffs of the BSUs cannot participate in the expanded plan but could participate in the voluntary plan without MBCB action.

The expanded plan was created for

churches, but associational offices and certified evangelists were included in the original plan document.

## Revival Dates

Oakland, Corinth: Nov. 15-18; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. and Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Bill Stafford, evangelist, speaker; Randy Bostick, pastor.



## Porter Routh dies . . .

(Continued from page 3) on the executive and administrative committees of the Baptist World Alliance; the board of managers of the American Bible Society; the national council of the Boy Scouts of America, which awarded him its Good Shepherd Award; the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs;

## Homecomings

Bunker Hill, Columbia: Nov. 15; C. E. Autry of Pensacola, Fla., former director of evangelism, Southern Baptist Convention, guest speaker for 11 a.m. worship service; meal served on church grounds; afternoon service scheduled from 1 to 2 p.m. with testimonies and songs; the church was established in November, 1882; Bob Sanderson, pastor.

and Kiwanis International.

He was an honors graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University. He received honorary doctorates from his alma mater, as well as from Wake Forest University and Georgetown College. He performed graduate study at the University of Missouri, George Peabody College (now a part of Vanderbilt University) and Southern Seminary.

He is succeeded by his wife of 51 years, the former Ruth Elizabeth Purtle; five children: Charles Routh, Betsy Green, Dorothy Leppert, Susan Routh and Lelia Cothen; and three sisters: Lucille Burnett, Elizabeth Pool and Lelia Arnette; and seven grandchildren.

His funeral is to be Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Nashville.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the American Bible Society.

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## MEMORIALS THAT LIVE

### CURTIS HOWELL MYERS 1920-1944

memory of their beloved son was to be found in the series of gifts which they subsequently made to The Baptist Children's Village, and for the purposes now being implemented.

The interest in and compassion for Village children demonstrated by Mr. and Mrs. Myers, in life and in death, originated during their many years as members of Crestwood Baptist Church, which was the church home of the Agency's staff and children from its inception as Davis Memorial Baptist Church in 1917 until October of 1958. Frequently, Mr. and Mrs. Myers referred to recollections of happy experiences they both enjoyed with Village children during the years of their membership at Crestwood. In later years, Mr. and Mrs. Myers were members and active supporters in and of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Jackson, despite their advancing age and frail health.

Mr. Myers was a retired member and officer of the Fire Department of the City of Jackson. The modest, gentle, unselfish nature of this lovely couple was shared with and well-known to neighbors in the area of their residence, to fellow church-members as well as to those involved in the work of the child care agency which was so dear to them.

On June 27, 1983, at the age of 85 years and 7 months, Eva Ragland Myers died. On November 24, 1986, her devoted husband, Wayne W. Myers peacefully slipped away in his own bed, at the age of 92 years and 6 months. In the hearts and minds of relatives, devoted friends and fellow church-members, and especially in

"Mississippi's largest family" at The Baptist Children's Village, their gentle, generous spirits, their good names, and the honored name and record of their beloved son, Curtis Howell Myers, will never die. Children, staff and Trustees join in tribute to Wayne W. and Eva Ragland Myers and to the sacred purposes they intended through the establishment of this memorial.

In his statement, Nunnery disclosed that the Curtis Howell Myers Memorial has been established through creation of the Curtis Howell Myers Memorial Trust, an addition to The Village's restricted Endowment Fund; through a major addition to facilities for children on The Village's Central Campus, in the form of the Curtis Howell Myers Recreation Center; and through the financial completion and satisfaction of Village property and program plans, initiated a number of years ago in reliance upon gifts made by Mr. and Mrs. Myers in life and provisions in their identical Wills which they revealed to him. The recreation center will include a new swimming pool and expanded recreational facility in Hester Building, consisting of a lounge for reading, television and relaxation; an arts and crafts center; a physical fitness room; and a refurbished game room.

In expressing his personal affection and respect for the donors and his appreciation for their friendship for The Village's mission, Mr. Nunnery stated, "The confidence and support of this gracious, Christian couple, in life and in death, represents a major, forward



Lt. Curtis Howell Myers  
April 14, 1920 - May 25, 1944

step in our continuing effort to preserve both the heritage and the future of The Baptist Children's Village as a mission ministry to troubled Mississippi children. Their example of reaching out to our boys and girls, even beyond the limits of their natural lives, constitutes one of the more heartening and securing incidents of my tenure of service."

In addition to a dedicatory statement which will be included among the records of The Village's Endowment Fund at Mississippi Baptist Foundation, memorial plaques will be installed at the Curtis Howell Myers Recreation Center and at the central offices of The Baptist Children's Village.

